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Native American Heritage Month

On the cover

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Vincent King

FROM THE TOP

Annual convention highlights Third Army mission

Command Sgt. Maj. Franklin G. Ashe

Third Army/ U.S. Army Central

Command Sergeant Major

By Command Sgt. Maj. Franklin G. Ashe **Third Army Command Sergeant Major**

Senior Army leaders gathered in Washington, D.C. recently for the annual Association of the United States Army meeting, the world's largest land-power forum that brings together America's Army.

In the past few years, Third Army/U.S. Army Central did not participate due to other mission requirements. However, this year, we arrived in style.

Our booth featured a Bedouin theme to incorporate all 27 countries in our AOR and was centrally located on the exhibit floor and featured

live interviews with Soldiers in theater. More than 250 people

stopped by everyday and learned about the past, present and future of our great organization. Many observers rated our booth as one of the best if not the best.

Speaking of the best, please join me in congratulating Sgt. 1st Class Jason Alexander, a healthcare specialist at Camp Arifjan, for winning the 2006 Department of the Army NCO of the Year Award. As this year's awardee, Alexander will travel across our Army representing more than 1.2 million Soldiers worldwide.

After winning the Third Army/U.S. Army Central and FORSCOM NCO of the year awards, Sgt. 1st Class Alexander went up against winners from nine other major commands for the title of best of the best. They competed in the Army Physical Fitness Test, weapons qualification, land navigation and various other battle drills. During the five-day competition, Alexander demonstrated the

kind of mental and physical strength that epitomizes today's Soldier. That leads me to the next topic I want to cover.

At the AUSA opening ceremony, the Secretary of the Army Dr. Francis J. Harvey announced our new advertising slogan, "Army Strong." You'll see its

> commercials air starting Veterans' Day. The new campaign captures the special characteristics of our Soldiers:

-U.S. Army Soldiers are mentally, emotionally and physically strong. Soldiers develop enduring strength through challenging training, teamwork, shared values and personal

> -Army Strong is about every U.S. Army Soldier -Active Duty, Army

Reserve, and National Guard. It is about the men and women who have served, are serving today, and about the next generation including cadets that choose to become Army Strong, positively impacting their future and the future of our nation.

-The U.S. Army endows a unique brand of strength to its Soldiers, a strength that is mental, emotional and physical; a strength the Army is capable of finding and forging.

- U.S. Army Soldiers consistently take pride in making a difference for themselves, their families, their communities and our nation.

Being "Army Strong" began when you decided to become a Soldier. Now, being "Army Strong" means having the personal, mental, emotion and physical strengthen to stay the course and help our nation win the Global War on Terrorism.

Are you Army Strong?



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Civilian pastor, Army Reserve SoldierFinding focus through balance, meditation

Six Questions with Maj. Fredrick Baskin, executive officer for the Third Army/ U.S. Army Central C3 operations. Frederick is an Army Reserve Soldier from Stockbridge, Ga., who is a pastor in his civilian job. Baskin spoke to the *Desert Voice* about God, the Army and how he chooses to serve both.



Photo by Sat Sarah I Scully

Maj. Fredrick Baskin (left) at work with one of his Soldiers.

How does your ministry experience help you in the Army?

It allows me to deal with the diversity of people that I meet in a positive manner, without being judgmental. I have learned that one person's mountain might be another person's molehill, and everyone deals with adversity differently. I have had Soldiers who were of the various denominations, and also, a Wiccan priest, all-out Satan worshippers, Muslims and devout atheists. Instead of running away from them, it has allowed me the opportunity to sit down with them and discuss differences and what made them attracted to their type of worship. It also, in turn, allows me to share my story.

Why did you decide to be a minister and a Soldier?

The decision to be a Soldier was decided a long time ago when I was in junior high school. My next-door neighbor was in the Army, and I decided that I wanted to join after seeing him in uniform. I just did it after I went to college and worked a couple of years as a deputy sheriff. So, the Army was something that I kind of wanted to do for a long time, just never really got around to doing it. The decision to be a minister was not something I had planned. Most of my friends still cannot believe it after almost 10 years. That decision was made by God. Being a minister was the last thing on my mind when the decision was made. I was actually a bouncer at a nightclub part time while still in the military as a young staff sergeant, when God told me this is not the place, nor the work you need to be doing. I almost misinterpreted that as getting out of the Army. But that was my misinterpretation, not his intent. I wasn't even a regular church member at the time.

Do you help counsel the Soldiers in your office?

Not really, I am here in another capacity. I think it is very important that when a person is in trouble or hurting, that they receive the best assistance possible, so I usually will direct them to the Army chaplains or professional agencies on post. I will listen if they just want to talk to me instead, and if need be, try to guide them in the right direction or again to the proper services on post.

What are some words of advice you can give troops?

Build for your future now. Look at today as a new day and a new chance to do it right – forget about yesterday's disappointments and pains, hurts or missed opportunities. Every minute you spend looking at yesterday takes your focus off of today.

How do you maintain your proficiency in ministry while deployed?

I spend time reading and meditating and just trying to live it. Just because I am moving does not mean I am not thinking and rehearsing.

How important is spiritual health to today's servicemembers?

I wouldn't call it spiritual health, but a spiritually inverse relationship. Spiritual health tends to imply there is sickness or brokenness. Therefore, once the sickness is gone or the brokenness is fixed, there is no need for the relationship. But, I think it is very important to servicemembers. A spiritual relationship is an inverse (mathematical) relationship. In other words, as the influence of one portion (self) decreases, the influence of the other portion (deity) increases – as the influence of God increases in your life, the influence of other things in the world decreases. Each servicemember has already gone through a similar transformation of this sort when they joined the military. We each stopped thinking like a civilian and started thinking more like a Soldier. Being a Christian and having this type of relationship with God is relatively the same. I am not saying in any way that you become perfect, or blind or unfeeling, but God gives you a strong measure of self control. We learn to reflect on life by valuing the things that life presents to us and glorifying God in everything that we do.

History in the making: Third Army celebrates birthday

A look back at the 88 years, four wars and countless tales of heroism

Sgt. Thomas L. Day Desert Voice Staff Writer

he first century of the Third U.S. Army reads like Roman mythology: an introduction to combat in the first World War, brilliance in the second, a return to glory in Desert Storm, progressing to a command role in the Iraq invasion.

George S. Patton's Own have grown into American centurions.

The battle garb has changed, but the Third Army trademark has endured. The patch is more than just a generic "A" sewn on a circular platform. The red circle in fact is an "O" for "occupation": Army of Occupation. The nomenclature harkens on its original World War I mission.

As the Allies sought to pressure the Germans into surrender, the Americans began a massive activation of forces, six entire armies in total. They would amass at the Rhine River. The British positioned north of the American line; the French dug in from the south.

"They reached an average of a quarter million each month arriving in France," said David S. Stieghan, the U.S. Infantry Branch command historian at Fort Benning, Ga. "We had already formed the First and Second armies...they were already holding the American sector (of the Allied line)."

The Third Army came after the First and Second. On Nov. 10, 1918, Keiser Wilhelm II abdicated the German throne and the next day, the remaining German government signed the Armistice.

"The War to End All Wars" had ended, but the agreement needed to be enforced. The activation of the Third Army came at Ligny-en-Barrios, France. Four days after activation, the Third Army debuted in Germany, given occupation duty along the Rhine.

"First and Second armies remained on the front lines to enforce the Armistice," Stieghan said. "The Third Army changed its task to be headquarters for the occupation."

Staged and largely confined to the east side of the Rhine River, no Third Army Soldiers were injured or killed during their World War I duty. World War II would be much different.

Third Army returned home and deactivated on July 2, 1919. Thirteen years later, in 1932, Third Army was back in activation. America would be returning to war on the Western Front. Third Army Soldiers would train the force.

"Prior to World War II, the Third Army was responsible for the various mock battle exercises called the Louisiana and Tennessee Maneuvers," said Phil Schreier, head curator of

The Battle of the Bulge

With German forces surrounding the American 101st Airborne Division and parts of the 10th Armored Division inside Bastogne, Belgium, Patton's Third Army raced north from south-central France with astounding speed. Patton broke through the German offensive from the south, resupplying the surrounded forces in Bastogne and sparking a counter offensive that broke the German lines.



National Archives



U.S. Army Signal Corps / Library of Congress

1944

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, in response to the German offensive of Bastogne, Belgium, told Allied commanders that he could immediately turn north, move through northern France and meet the Nazi force. Patton was true to his word.

Lt. Gen. David D. McKiernan was in command of the Third Army and all of the joint ground forces during the ground invastion of Iraq in March and April of 2003.

2003



Official DoD Photograph

the National Firearms Museum in Fairfax, Va. "These maneuvers were widely seen as a window into the readiness of the Army."

On August 1, 1944, the Third Army began their march toward Germany behind their unwearing, feverish commander named Patton.

Patton was an early proponent of the use of tanks in modern warfare, lobbying for congressional funding of armor developments long before the Nazi onslaught of Europe. He was a tough, sometimes raucous commander, defined by his sonorous voice and ominous nickname: "Old Blood and Guts."

In Europe, Patton vindicated his views on armored formations.

"Patton was an umpire at the Louisiana Maneuvers and quickly became a disciple of Gen. (Adna) Chaffee's idea of a separate armored corps and fast moving and separate armored units," Schreier said. "The pre-war Louisiana Maneuvers directly influenced the way that Patton, [Gen. George] Marshall and others envisioned the use and abilities of the armored corps in the soon-to-be war."

Patton titled the mission,

"Operation Cobra."

His finest hour would come with a 48-hour dash through northern

France. It came to be known as "The Battle of the Bulge."

"Third Army arrives from the south and the Germans immediately begin putting pressure on the Third Army" Stieghan said. "At that point, the heaviest fighting really begins."

The Allies believed they could pinch the German line at the Belgian town of Bastogne, where the 101st Airborne Division had held the German siege for seven days.

"So the Germans turned a great deal of their combat power there," said Stieghan. "They're fighting to save it." But the Nazis failed.

Patton struck the Germans from the south; British commander Gen. Bernard Montgomery from the north. Through the coldest, snowiest winter in Europe in 45 years, the Allies fought through the German line and met on Jan. 15, 1945. By that time, Hitler and his generals had realized their fate.

Two generations later, the Third Army returned to battle, fighting deep inside Iraq during the swift, 100-hour ground campaign to remove Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's forces from Kuwait.

It would not be the Third Army's last engagement with Hussein.

Lt. Gen. David D. McKiernan, acting as both commander of the Third Army and of the Combined Forces Land Component Command, oversaw the 2003 ground invasion of Iraq.

The tip of the spear would be the Third Infantry Division with the First Marine Expeditionary Force providing the right flank into Baghdad.

Paying homage to Patton's World War II Operation Cobra, McKiernan drew on a bit of historical irony to title Third Army's latest rendezvous: "Cobra II."

Under McKiernan, the ground invasion of Iraq worked with extraordinary precision and efficiency, toppling Hussein in only 21 days. Wise to the threat of irregular militias that would dominate the post-war insurgency, McKiernan decided to engage Hussein's paramilitary "Fedayeen" forces before the blitzkrieg of Baghdad.

McKiernan immediately dispatched the 101st Airborne Division to protect the rear of the invading force.

Today, under the command and leadership of Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb and Command Sgt. Maj. Franklin J. Ashe, the Third Army's forward headquaters remains in Kuwait, supplying and training warfighters entering the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters.

The epic of the Third Army endures.

Anthrax vaccine to be resumed

Sgt. 1st Class Sharon McBride 40th PAD/Third Army PAO Plans NCO

Based upon the continued threat to servicemembers deployed to the United States Central Command and Korea, the Department of Defense has issued a policy to resume the mandatory Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program.

"The licensed vaccine is consistent with the Food and Drug Administration regulatory guidelines and will be mandatory for personnel assigned to or deployed within the CENTCOM area of operations for 15 or more consecutive days once CENTCOM and Headquarters Department of the Army publish their implementation guidance," said Maj. Dennis Kilian, the Third Army/ U.S. Army Central Force Health Protection Officer.

According to the DoD, several countries have or are developing an offensive biological warfare capability using anthrax.

"As always, our best protection is a

protective posture," said Kilian.

"The threat is real, and failure to prepare would result in grave consequences," states the DoD in a new policy statement.

A former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, James Woolsey, referred to anthrax as "the single most dangerous threat to our national security in the foreseeable future."

Anthrax is a deadly infection caused by a spore-forming bacterium. Anthrax which has a long-shelf life, can be produced in large quantities without sophisticated equipment, and can be loaded into a variety of weapons, and states the DoD.

"It is a naturally occurring spore," said Kilian. "The disease it causes has been documented since the 'Old Testament' days. Once a person is exposed they have 'flu-like' symptoms. If exposed and they contract the disease, personnel treated within 72 hours are likely to recover."

Protection is a two step process. The first step is vaccination and the second, after exposure, is being put on antibiotics. Servicemembers who receive both the vaccine and antibiotics after exposure are far more likely to recover than those who only receive antibiotics post exposure, he said.

"Servicemembers who do not receive the vaccine will be more vulnerable to the disease. Any loss of life could threaten others in their unit who depend on them and could jeopardize the success of the mission," said Kilian.

Servicemembers already in theater should anticipate beginning the vaccination series at the beginning of 2007 depending upon CENTCOM and HQDA guidance. For those who have started the series and want to voluntary continue, they can, said Kilian.

"There's no need to start over," Kilian said. "At three shots the vaccine is 95 percent effective."

But is the vaccine safe?

According to the DoD, 20 safety studies of more than 800,000 vac-

cine recipients establish the safety of the vaccine. But as with any vaccine, injectionsite reactions occur.

Mild injection-site reactions, such as redness, swelling and tenderness [less than one inch], occur in up to 30 percent of men and 60 percent of women. About one in 100 develop a reaction five inches or larger. Such symptoms resolve on their own in a few days.

The rate of side effects away from the injection site – fatigue, headache, muscle or join pain –occur in 5 percent to 35 percent of vaccine recipients; again, they typically resolve within 24 to 48 hours.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Sarah Murphy, a hospital corpsman, prepares to give the anthrax vaccination shot to a patient at the Troop Medical Clinic on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Oct. 27.

for deployed servicemembers



If a servicemember has a serious reaction to anthrax vaccine, they should report to their healthcare provider. This provider will determine future anthrax vaccine schedules for that individual

Members of the armed forces to include civilian employees and contractors are required to get vaccinations as long as they remain in the higher threat area. For those who are no longer deployed to a higher threat area or no longer assigned special mission roles, these later vaccine doses will be on a voluntary basis.

"There will be plenty of vaccination to accommodate everyone here," said Kilian. A plan will be published for unit and individual resumption of the anthrax vaccine.

(Above) Petty Officer 3rd Class Leonor Dutcher, a hospital corpsman, receives an anthrax immunization shot from Petty Officer 3rd Class Sarah Murphy, also a hospital corpsman, at the Troop Medical Clinic on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Oct. 27.

(Right) An anthrax vaccine is taken out of a bag by Petty Officer 3rd Class Sarah Murphy, a hospital corpsman, at the Troop Medical Clinic on Camp Arifjan.



'...to deal with THE REAL THING'

ASG-Kuwait Fire Department trains to respond

Carlotta Maneice, PAO 160th Signal Brigade Communication **Control Center**

A Soldier living in the barracks hurries outside when she hears the fire alarm going off. A severe car wreck on a Kuwait highway has a Department of Defense civilian pinned between the door and the

Many times, the first to arrive on the scene is the ASG-Kuwait Fire Department.

Until July 2003 no formal fire department existed, but today the ASG-Kuwait Fire Department has six stations, and over 100 firefighters and support personnel assigned.

"We were not originally created for the Operation Iraqi Freedom mission, but today, in addition to Camp Arifjan we

have branched out to Navistar, the LSA and first ones on the scene with their ladders, Camp Virginia," said Steven McDonnell, fire chief.

The firefighters work 24 hours with 48 hours off. During the time they are on shift they live at the fire department, work out at the gym for mandatory physical fitness and eat in the dining facility. They conduct training daily, become familiar with the base and its building and respond quickly to all emergencies. They work with other emergency responders, including local nationals, to protect and assist U.S. Soldiers ing section provides daily DoD certificaand civilians from fires, car wrecks and other emergency situations.

In fiscal year 2006, the fire department responded to 96 fires all within three minutes. This is below the five minutes required DoD established response time.

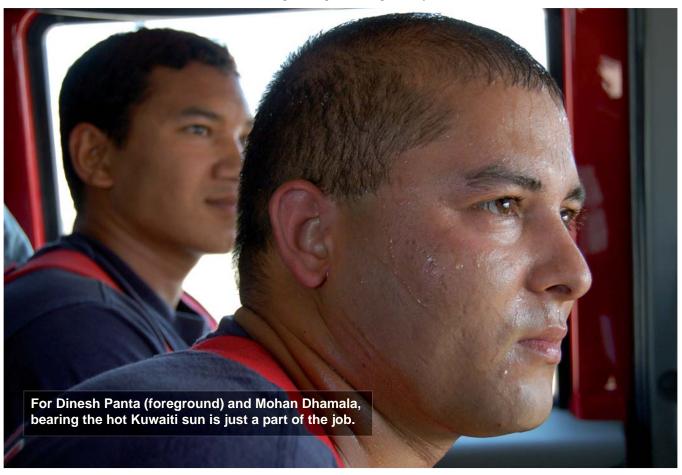
Although firefighters are generally the

fire hoses and trucks, many people work behind the scenes to ensure the safety and success of every mission. The ASG-KU Fire Department is no exception.

Support personnel include dispatchers, administrative assistants, fire inspectors/investigators, training officers, mechanics, logisticians and supply specialists – all helping to ensure the safety of the firefighters and the success of the fire department.

The ASG-KU Fire Department's traintion training on basic firefighting, medical first responder, aircraft and anti-terrorist awareness. The training room consists of multiple media stations where firefighters can conduct hands on training in a class room environment.

"Situational exercises contribute to a



firefighter's ability to respond quickly to a similar real life situation. Our firefighters must train daily for different environments occurrences ranging from HAZMAT to working in confined spaces. This gets them ready and certified to deal with the real thing," said Andre Valentine, battalion chief of training.

Recently, while preparing for a "live-fire" training exercise, an actual fire occurred in Zone Six and the fire department responded in less than three minutes.

Today, all 911 calls are dispatched through the ASG Fire Alarm Communications Center. They are the first to receive any 911 emergency calls.

With three rotating dispatchers who work 12-hour days, 365 days a week, the communications center ensures that you receive help. During fiscal year 2006, the communications center handled over 1,300 calls.

"When this department receives a 911 call, we dispatch it accordingly and our emergency service personnel generally respond within three minutes," said dispatcher and Marine Corps veteran Julie Ruiz.

The Supply and Service section makes sure the firefighter's equipment is to standard. They maintain the records of the firefighters' equipment, place orders for items such as breathing apparatus, hoses, pumps and small engines.

They are also responsible for the maintenance of the vehicles, engines and other fire equipment.

"The last thing a firefighter needs is to respond to an emergency call and discover he does not have the supplies and equipment to get his job done. We make sure his equipment is functioning properly and that orders are received to replace anything outdated or malfunctioning," said John Ramos, battalion chief of service.

The Operations section is just like its name suggests. It is responsible for the operational response to any emergency. One of the most important tasks at the beginning of any shift starts with the daily vehicle check out which encompasses a through inventory and function check of all firefighter's Personal Protective gear and equipment on the truck.

"ASG-KU firefighters physically check each compartment and all their equipment to ensure everything is working. If their equipment is down, the fire department is down. Often, traffic patterns on base change. Even small changes in traffic direction or traffic flow can impact response time. In order to combat this, our firefighters do base familiarization daily. This helps them become familiar with the ongoing changes on the base including becoming familiar with buildings and underground manholes," said Gerald Mabry, station captain.

"The Fire Prevention section is the first line of defense against future fires, as they are usually the first ones to discover a fire safety deficiency and initiate corrective action to prevent the problem from becoming a fire," said Charles Coffman, fire inspector.

The Fire Prevention Office conducts inspections, educates the public and tries to

determine the nature and cause of a fire. This information is then incorporated into briefings provided to the military, DoD civilians and contractors in Kuwait.

"We are able to do our job well because we have the best working for and with us," said McDonnell. "Many of us are prior service and know first hand how emergency situations can keep an individual from doing their mission. Through training, prevention procedures and highly skilled emergency service professionals, we will continue to provide the best fire, rescue and other emergency services to the Arifjan community."



Photos by Staff Sgt. Vincent Young, 160th Signal Brigade Communication Control Center



'The Scorpion King'

Story and Photos by

Sgt. Sarah Scully

Desert Voice Staff Writer

The irony stung worse than the scorpion. A Soldier dedicated to studying dangerous wildlife got attacked by one of the aggressive fat-tailed scorpions he had spent months warning other Soldiers to avoid.

Capt. Stephen Garvin, an entomologist with the 981st Medical Detachment supporting Third Army/U.S. Army Central in Kuwait, made a routine visit to a portable toilet at Camp Buehring around 5 a.m. on Oct. 5 when he felt something crawling on his right ankle.

Thinking it was a fly, he smacked the offending insect with his left foot and ground it against his ankle – and that's when he felt the sting.

"I knew it was a scorpion as soon as it stung me," said Garvin, a 33-year-old active-duty Soldier from Stillwater, Okla. "My first thought was, 'I can't believe this is happening."

After stomping on the 2-inch scorpion a few times to make sure it had died, Garvin scooped it up using toilet paper and immediately sought medical attention – he recognized the crushed arachnid as one

of the top three deadliest scorpions in the world, capable of killing a person in seven hours.

Within an hour and a half from the venom injection, Garvin suffered extreme nausea, headache and dizziness.

"Things happened so fast – that's when I started getting concerned. I called the doctor over and said, 'something's wrong," said Garvin, who passed out 10 minutes later and didn't wake up until the next evening.

Quickly airlifted to Camp Arifjan, put on a respirator and given an anti-venom shot, Garvin has slowly recovered and endured a 10-day migraine as a result of the scorpion's sting.

He had a "classic presentation" of symptoms, said Maj. Dennis Kilian, Third Army/U.S. Army Central force health prevention officer.

Although half of scorpion stings have little or no venom spread to the victim, Soldiers do have a 50 percent chance of sharing Garvin's experience, according to Kilian.

But out of the six stings reported at Camp Buehring during the last year, Garvin stood out as the only one to get venom injected. He also stood out because he normally works with the same servicemembers who treated him for the sting.

"They all know him, and they were all very concerned," said Maj. Brian Copeland, 981st Medical Det. commander. "And at the same time, kind of in disbelief – how could he [an entomologist] get stung?"

Now recovered, Garvin has already started receiving nicknames, such as "Captain Scorpion" and "The Scorpion King."

Colleagues drop by with witty remarks such as, "There are better ways to make a name for yourself" and "You don't have to get stung to be able to teach Soldiers about the effects of scorpion venom."

It's "like being something between a celebrity and a circus freak," Garvin said with a smile.

He only had 30 days to go before finishing his first deployment, but he now has a story to tell and a souvenir to show.

Garvin preserved the crushed scorpion that stung him and plans to use it in further teachings of dangers troops face in the Middle East.

"We all have to take something back," said Kilian.



ARMY STRONG™

Congratulations to Sgt. 1st Class Jason Alexander Camp Arifian Troop Medical Clinic The 2006 Department of the Army NCO of the Year



Hometown Hero

Spc. Andrew Belflower Infantryman, Company C, 2/127

Belflower's job is important because he provides service to the distinguished visitors coming to Kuwait. He makes sure their trip goes smoothly so that the Army is held in the highest

Talks about what he misses about his hometown. Chilton, Wisc.

"I miss grilling [bratwursts] when it's 20 degrees outside. I also miss the snow, ice fishing and hunting."

Just One Question...

How do you embody "Army Strong"?



"I'm constantly working with other Soldiers, building a team, keeping the morale up." Being professional everyday whether on or off duty."

> Spc. Michelle Calloway Administrative Specialist Third Army/USARCENT C3 Atlanta, Ga.



"I strive to do as much as I can to support the mission and take care of Soldiers. But Army Strong also includes our family members.

> Lt. Col. Martin Metz Chief of Plans Third Army/USARCENT C9 Des Moines, Wash.



"To me it is the ability to take on the challenges of today's world with military force."

> Spc. Keith Hensley Air Defense 1-174th Air Defense Artillery Cincinnati, Ohio



"Everyone is starting to understand each other, from one branch to another. We're not only Army Strong, but we're military strong."

> Sgt. 1st Class Carl Gibson Light Weight Vehicle Mechanic Third Army/ USARCENT Andrews, S.C.



"Being a team. One man is nothing."

> Sgt. 1st Class Scot Hector Third Army/USARCENT NCOIC of Theater Security Cooperation, Arabian Gulf Headquarters, Third Army Atlanta, Ga.

